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Concerns over Labuan's dangerous tree branches

Sohan Das

LABUAN: The recent incidents in Kuala Lumpur where matured trees were uprooted during thunder storm crashing cars and injuring a few have sparked concerns here of dangerous low tree branches and leaning down the busy highway.

A Daily Express reader who shared pictures of some trees along Jalan Tun Mustapha said: "Each time I drive along the road I feel uncomfortable, especially when it's windy and there are trees in similar shape in other locations."

A local resident and activist Julius Elias said: "The Labuan Corporation should not ignore these warning signs, the trees to be maintained and brisk branches pruned before any untoward incidents."

He said branches falling on rainy days were not unheard off here, while trees were important for providing canopy and cooling the environment, a balanced approach is necessary.

Recently, the LC went on tree-cutting spree here with a number of mahogany trees felled and drew public flake as it was felt the trees could have been maintained instead of removed from sight.

The LC, responding to brickbats, said the old trees felled would be replaced by 700 new suitable trees with the recommendation from Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) and the programme carefully curated to ensure it does not obstruct visibility or pose hazards to pedestrians and drivers.

"This was announced in August last year and we are yet to see a single chopped tree replaced or replanted," said Julius.

He also drew attention to national media reports on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim instructing the KL Mayor to plant 100 trees for every unnecessary that is felled in KL.